

Nurse Licensure Compact Update

Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)

The mutual recognition model of nurse licensure allows a nurse to have one license (in his or her state of residency) and to practice in other states (both physically and electronically), subject to each state's practice laws and regulations. Under mutual recognition, a nurse may practice across state lines unless otherwise restricted. In order to achieve mutual recognition, each state must enact legislation or regulation authorizing the Nurse Licensure Compact. States entering the compact also adopt administrative rules and regulations for implementation of the compact. Once the compact is enacted, each compact state designates a Nurse Licensure Compact Administrator to facilitate the exchange of information between the states relating to compact nurse licensure and regulation. On January 10, 2000, the Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) were organized to protect the public's health and safety by promoting compliance with the laws governing the practice of nursing in each party state through the mutual recognition of party state licenses. The Executive Director of the Texas Board of Nursing serves as the Compact Administrator for Texas.

NLCA Meetings

The Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) and the NLCA Executive Committee (NLCA EXEC) meet regularly via teleconference and face to face at least twice a year. The last face to face meeting of the NLCA took place on August 12, 2014 in Chicago. Items considered on the agenda included review of revisions to the Nurse Licensure Compact, presentations from Federation of State Medical Boards, the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, the National Association of State EMS Officials, and the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards on their progress with Interstate Compacts, and update to the Strategic Plan.

Delegate Assembly Adopts Resolution to Support Interstate Practice

A review and revision of the Nurse Licensure Compact is underway but was not ready for consideration at the 2014 Annual meeting. The Delegate Assembly affirmed its commitment to facilitating interstate practice through adoption of a resolution. The resolution can be reviewed at: https://www.ncsbn.org/Interstate_Practice_DA_Resolution.pdf **See 6.1.a for further discussion.**

New Compacts in Development

The National Association of State EMS Officials is developing an interstate Compact "to solve the problem associated with day-to-day emergency deployment of EMS personnel across state boundaries." This Compact is scheduled to be developed by the end of 2014. For key talking points, see

<https://www.nasemso.org/Projects/InterstateCompacts/documents/Model-Interstate-Compact-Talking-Points-July2013.pdf>

In October 2013, the Federation of State Board of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) approved the exploration of an Interstate Compact.

<http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/content/physical-therapists-endorse-exploration-compact>
<http://www.fsbpt.org/FreeResources/PhysicalTherapyLicensureCompact.aspx>

The Interstate Compact for Physician Licensure draft changes have been unveiled. In a July 25, 2014 press release, the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) noted changes to the interstate compact for physician licensure draft. Three proposed changes to the FSMB Compact

draft include: requiring compact license applicants to submit to fingerprinting and background checks; clarifying that specialty board requirements with time-unlimited certification are also eligible; and passage of each component of the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) or the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medicine Licensing Exam (COMLEX-USA) within three attempts. The FSMB notes that these changes to the draft Compact would strengthen physicians' licensure eligibility requirements and help ensure the safety of patients while in a physician's care. There is expected to be an Interstate Compact for Medical Licensing bill introduced in Texas in the 84th Legislature.

http://www.fsmb.org/Media/Default/PDF/Publications/FSMB_statement_on_final_compact_09032014FINAL.pdf

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards is in the process of developing an Interjurisdictional Telepsychology Compact which is posted for comment at this time.

<http://www.asppb.net/?page=compact&hhSearchTerms=%22interstate+and+compact%22>

Compliance Committee

The Texas Compact Administrator co-chairs the Compliance Committee. The committee continues to refine new Compliance policies, develop flow charts for use of the new policies, and refine the self-audit tool. The Committee is working with Nursys staff to develop an automated audit process through the Nursys data base. This audit will assist Compact Administrators in assuring compliance with the Compact.

Participating States

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has now been implemented in 24 states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Texas Compact Statute and Rules

The Texas NLC Statute can be found at:

<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/nursinglaw/npa2.html#4-001>

The Texas Administrative Rules for the Compact can be found at this page by clicking on BON Rules and Regulations and navigating to Chapter 220.

<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/nursinglaw/rr.html>